

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A support bracket assembly for supporting a hanging item, comprising:
a plurality of mounting brackets each having a first end adapted to be secured to a vertically extending object having an outer perimeter and a second end adapted to be mounted in a position horizontally spaced away from said outer perimeter, said second end including means for supporting a hanging item, said mounting brackets adapted to be spaced around said perimeter; and
a load supporting member adapted to be positioned encircling and spaced a horizontal distance around said object, with an unobstructed space encircling said object between said object and said load supporting member, said load supporting member being connected to each of said mounting brackets and vertically displaced above [[from]] said first ends thereof and being unsupported on said vertically extending object at any point above the elevation of said load supporting member.
2. (Previously Presented) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said load supporting member comprises a plurality of parts connected together.
3. (Previously Presented) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 2, wherein the parts of said support member are threadably connected at at least one location.
4. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 2, wherein said first and second support member are slidably connected at at least one location.

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5. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 4, wherein said slidable connection includes a pin on one of said first and second support members and a key shaped slot in the other of said first and second support members.
6. (Previously Presented) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said mounting brackets are adjustably connected to said load supporting member.
7. (Previously Presented) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 1, further including hook brackets connecting each of said mounting brackets to said load supporting member.
8. (Previously Presented) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 7, wherein said hook brackets are adjustably connected to said mounting brackets.
9. (Previously Presented) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 7, wherein each hook bracket is threadably connected to said load supporting member.
10. (Previously Presented) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said mounting brackets are forced against said object when an item is hung from said load supporting member or said mounting brackets.
11. (Currently Amended) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said load supporting member includes at least one extending bracket and [[said]] at least one mounting bracket is connected to said at least one extending bracket.
12. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 7, wherein said hook bracket includes a first set of radially arranged grooves that interconnect

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with a second set of radially arranged grooves on said first mounting bracket, said grooves configured to position said first mounting bracket at a predetermined angle and vertical location relative to said load supporting member.

13. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 7, wherein said hook bracket includes a tube member configured to mount a pole.
14. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 1, further including a hook bracket connected to said load supporting member and configured to mount a pole.
15. (Currently Amended) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein each of said ~~at least one mounting brackets~~ includes a holding member adapted to contact said vertical object.
16. (Currently Amended) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ each holding member includes a protrusion.
17. (Currently Amended) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ each holding member includes a rubber pad.
18. (Currently Amended) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ each holding member includes a nail.
19. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly, comprising:
 - a load supporting member positioned at a horizontal distance around a vertically extending object;
 - at least one first mounting bracket configured to contact said object at a first location and connected to said load supporting member; and

at least one second mounting bracket configured to contact the vertically extending object at a second location and connected to said load supporting member.

20. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 19, wherein said first mounting bracket is adjustably connected to said load supporting member.
21. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 19, wherein said at least one second mounting bracket includes an arcuate shaped brace and at least one arm member, wherein said arcuate shaped brace contacts said vertically extending object.
22. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 19, wherein said at least one first mounting bracket is forced against said object when an item is hung on the support bracket assembly.
23. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 19, wherein said at least one second mounting bracket is forced against said object when an item is hung on the support bracket assembly.
24. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 19, further including a hook bracket connected to said load supporting member including a tube member configured to mount a pole.
25. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 19, wherein said at least one first and second mounting brackets are adjustably connected to said load supporting member.
26. (Currently Amended) A support bracket assembly, comprising:
a load supporting member adapted to be positioned around a vertically extending object and spaced a horizontal distance therefrom;

a plurality of mounting brackets each having first and second ends, each first end being adapted to contact said object at a first location vertically spaced below said load supporting member to thereby secure each said bracket to said object, each bracket being connected to said load supporting member at a point displaced from said first end to said load supporting member and configured to contact a vertically extending object and being unsupported on said vertically extending object at any point above the elevation of said load supporting member.

27. (Cancelled)
28. (Withdrawn) A support bracket assembly as defined in claim 26, further including a hook bracket connected to said load supporting member including a tube member configured to hold a pole.
29. (Previously Presented) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 26, wherein said mounting brackets are configured to support hanging items.
30. (Previously Presented) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 26, wherein said plurality of mounting brackets is adapted to be forced against said object when an item is hung from the support bracket assembly.
31. (Previously Presented) The support bracket assembly as defined in claim 26, wherein said first ends of said mounting brackets each include a tooth adapted to contact said object.